



## 2023 Annual Report



# OUR MISSION

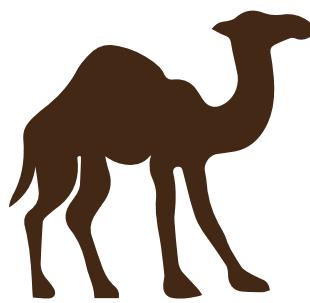
ASSISTING MEN, WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND ANIMALS BY PROVIDING A PLACE OF RESCUE AND A JOURNEY TO PEACE.

**696  
VOLUNTEERS**

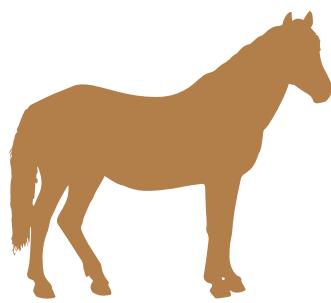
**2,700  
HOURS**

**20,314  
VISITORS**

We rely on volunteers to provide second chances to the 248 **animals** that come through our doors each year, and to assist us with ranch activities daily. Volunteers touch every aspect of our organization, and we simply couldn't do it without them.



**1,032  
SPECIAL EVENTS  
HOURS**



**312  
ADULTS & YOUTH  
SERVED THROUGH  
DIRECT PROGRAMS**



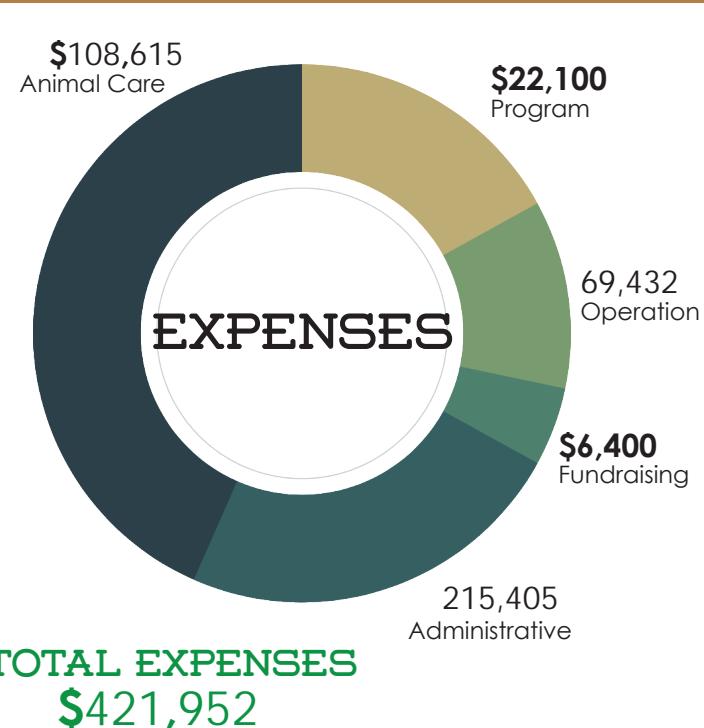
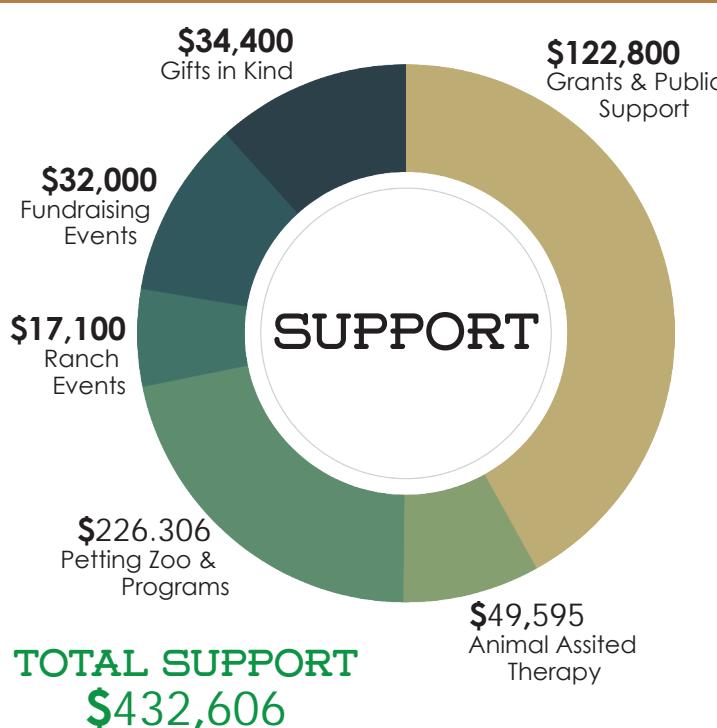
**3,140  
BEHAVIOR &  
ENRICHMENT HOURS**



**7,776  
SENIOR HOME  
VISITS**

# OUR VISION

RESCUES, FEEDS, AND CARES FOR NEGLECTED, HUNGRY, AND ABANDONED ANIMALS TO CREATE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR COMMUNITIES. TO HELP PEOPLE RESTORE A SENSE OF PEACE AND PURPOSE IN LIFE.



# ANIMAL ASSISTED THERAPY

Pets can be good for our health. They are known to increase a sense of well-being and reduce our stress levels. Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) is an innovative intervention in which an animal becomes a crucial and highly effective part of the treatment process. Animals can give therapists the tools they need to begin and maintain an effective treatment program with solution-focused therapy. AAT can improve a person's social, emotional, and cognitive functions.

## SENIOR PROGRAMS

Scatter Joy Acres brings our animals to seniors to interact with, improving their well-being and showing them that a furry companion can be life-changing. Walking a dog is great cardiovascular exercise, but just the simple act of petting, brushing, or feeding an animal provides both activity and a means to stay engaged with the world. Pets can make the elderly feel needed, and that feeling can translate into a greater sense of purpose and self-worth. During what can be a lonely time of life, the unconditional love of a cherished dog, goat, llama or donkey can be a bridge to more socialization with others, lowered stress, mental stimulation and a renewed interest in life.

## VETERANS PROGRAMS

Many soldiers experience symptoms of mental illness such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, and addictions. Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) can exacerbate symptoms. When left untreated, the effects of symptoms affect not only the veteran, but their relationships with others. The Veterans Programs at Scatter Joy Acres includes social learning theory and animal assisted therapy (AAT) as a mean of providing education, changing stereotypes, reducing stigma, and encouraging change from non-judgmental helpers (ie animals). With training and treatment, it is hoped that symptoms will be alleviated, and healthier lives can become reality. We not only work with the veteran, but their family members as well.

## AT-RISK YOUTH PROGRAMS

Scatter Joy Acres uses interactions with animals to teach at-risk youth how to behave towards other people. By teaching empathy and responsibility, our At-Risk Youth Program helps turn the kids into protectors, ending the possible cycle of abuse and giving them another path to follow. The animals at Scatter Joy Acres all have histories of abuse, neglect, abandonment, or worse. Often, the children in our programs share similar pasts, and hearing the stories of the animals helps them see that change is possible. As they see that the animals are safe here with us, the children begin to open up because they, too, feel safe. We believe that our animals, with their unconditional love and non-judgmental attitude, can often reach kids more deeply and effectively than people can. As the children learn to love and understand the animals, they learn to love and understand themselves. When they explore how our previously-abused animals have learned to forgive and overcome their pasts, the animals become role models helping the children reach their goals of surpassing their pain and reaching for their bright futures.



## EDUCATION

- After School Programs
- College Planning
- Service Learning
- School Field Trips
- Outdoor Education
- Ranch Academy
- STEM Education
- Scout Camps
- Tutoring Assistance
- Cowboy Ethics
- Volunteer Opportunities

## ACTIVITIES

- Bonfires & Campouts
- Catering & Cookouts
- Dress-Up Barn
- Hay Bale Climbing
- Horseback Riding
- Horseshoe Pit
- Hula Hoop Toss
- Nature Trails
- Petting Zoo
- Playground
- Photography Ops

## EVENTS

- Animal Encounters
- Birthday Parties
- Corporate Outings
- Easter Egg Hunts
- Hay Rack Rides
- Hump Day Events with a Camel
- Live Nativities
- Scavenger Hunts
- Static Steer Head Roping
- Summer Camps

## LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND FOUNDER, Joy Bartling

Since Scatter Joy Acres started in 2006, our team has dreamed up goals for the urban/rescue/therapy ranch that are both big and small. As days and weeks pass, these dreams change and grow, dependent upon our successes and the passion and commitment of our entire team. One constant, however, is that we always work hard to drive our once "small but mighty" organization forward.

This past year was a success for Scatter Joy Acres for a multitude of reasons. Our numbers are up in most areas, including rescue of animals, as well as therapy with individuals – meaning we're saving more lives than we ever have before! We have acquired even more volunteers who are committed to this organization in a way I never would have realized was possible if I had not started this crazy adventure eighteen years ago. We are also seeing our community outreach and education programs grow at a staggering rate, meaning our message is being received by more ears and more people and pets are being impacted by Scatter Joy Acres mission than ever before.

As you peruse this report, though, I urge you to think of all of the things it represents aside from words and graphs. This report serves as the bridge between the past and the future. It is a showcase of our entire year as well as written proof of our mission. It is a document I'm proud of for many reasons and an amazing way for us to address our impact from a more in-depth standpoint. It is a representation of Scatter Joy Acres at its core.

As I conclude my little write-up, I'd like to thank the people who make this ranch go 'round, because without them, Scatter Joy Acres would not be the successful, reputable organization it is. Thank you to the volunteers, who literally save these animals' lives by giving them a second chance. Thank you to the volunteers, who work ceaselessly to make this organization successful, giving it their blood, sweat, and tears each day. Thank you to the staff and board of directors, who provide so much expertise to help further the organization's mission and drive its goals upwards each year. Thank you to our donors and supporters for seeing the potential in this organization from its roots and for supporting the mission with immeasurable generosity. Thank you to our veterinary partners, who provide extraordinary levels of care and exposure for these animals and make our animal care and adoption programs possible with their partnership. Thank you to the community partners who use us as a resource for their clients.

Thank you, too, to you, for being a supporter of Scatter Joy Acres and seeing it along on its journey. This past year was truly amazing, and I am so proud to look back on it in this report. I am also excited to keep growing, utilizing this year's momentum to bring us to the next level in 2024.

Together, we will continue to do whatever it takes for these animals and people who need us. Together, we will continue to ensure every animal has a loving home.



### COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS



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